



Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council



COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of Messing Cum Inworth Parish Council

Tuesday 15 July 2025, Messing Village Hall, 7.00pm

		PRESENT
Chairman	Councillor R Suckling	Yes
Councillors	Councillor Mrs J Hughes	No
	Councillor R Strudwick	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Irons	Yes
	Councillor Mrs C Baxter	Yes
	Councillor A Harding	Yes
	Councillor Mrs M Lindsay	Yes
	IN ATTENDANCE	Clerk
	1 member of the public	
	City Councillor A Ellis	

- 1 75/25 **APOLOGIES:** Received from Cllr Mrs J. Hughes
- 2 76/25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 - a) **RECEIVE** declarations of interest regarding the agenda: Councillor Mrs Baxter declared an interest in item 7b (81/25) as Chair of Messing Allotment Association (MAA).
- 3 77/25 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
 - a) **RECEIVE** reports from City and County Councillors (*item taken later in the meeting*): County Councillor K Bentley sent his apologies. Councillor Ellis reported that both Sandra Scott and Karen Syrett are prepared to meet with the parish council. Cllr Ellis recommended meeting with both officers and he will arrange a convenient date. Parish councillors confirmed they did not previously have a meeting to discuss sites as some other parish councils had. Cllr Ellis explained that all of the modelling in the current draft Local Plan is based on the A12 widening going ahead so the extra evidence being produced will now have to justify the proposed sites without the widening. The draft Local Plan will go to the next LP committee meeting on 10 November to decide if the Reg 18 consultation can start. He encouraged councillors to look at alternative sites in the parish before meeting with the officers, the clerk will circulate potential dates for a meeting to discuss this.
Cllr Mrs Baxter asked about the recent suspension of recycling during hot weather conditions because some residents had been unhappy about this decision. Cllr Ellis will send circulate definitive answer to this but it relates to manual handling limits and levels of staff absence due to lifting injuries. *Councillor Ellis present from 7.50-8.45pm.*
 - b) **RECEIVE** public comments relating to the agenda or matters for future consideration: None
- 4 78/25 **MINUTES - APPROVE** minutes (previously circulated) as a true record
 - a) minutes of the meeting of the council held on 17 June 2025 were **APPROVED** on proposal of Cllr Harding, seconded Cllr Mrs Baxter, all agreed and duly signed by the Chair.
 - b) draft minutes of the meeting of the personnel committee held on 17 June 2025 were **NOTED**.
- 5 79/25 **GOVERNANCE**
 - a) Updated parish actions list **RECEIVED**. Clerk will work on expanding website and pursuing public space protection order with CCC as new dog hirers for village hall will not be using the play area.
 - b) Parish Council calendar **RECEIVED**.
 - c) It was discussed whether to have additional members for the personnel committee now that there is a full complement of councillors, as all current members need to be available for the meetings to be quorate. It was agreed to keep to three members at present and then review.
- 6 80/25 **PLANNING - CONSIDER** the following applications or decisions presented to Council for comment:
 - a) Decision 250838 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/wampd/?id=250838> construction of 2-storey side and rear extensions and construction of front porch and rear single storey extension 6 Osborne Cottages, School Road – approved. Clerk to follow up with allocated officer about gravel from the property on the road and potentially blocking drain.

b) Elms Farm enforcement

242334 <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/planning-app-details/?id=f18abe1b-8ba6-ef11-b8e8-000d3ab2bf55#ValidationSummaryEntityFormView>

the appeal period has now expired and enforcement team will decide next steps.

7 81/25 PARISH MATTERS

- a) Orchard – All agreed not to approach youths in the orchard individually for personal safety reasons but use WhatsApp group for information if sighted. It was decided to try surveillance notices for security. There are four bookings for the pruning course, so this will be promoted again. Options for watering the trees were discussed and Cllr Mrs Baxter will explore further.
- b) Allotments – Cllr Mrs Baxter reported that the MAA AGM had taken place and they are in agreement with plans for the open day and sponsoring the planters near the war memorial. Councillors asked to pass on their appreciation for this. The clerk reported that the tenant of Plot 6 had not responded to the email requesting her to remove her hose, rubbish and the thistles. Councillors agreed that a notice to quit should be served to the tenant of Plot 6. The clerk will check old files or find an example for suitable wording.
- c) Play area – invoice for the hedge cut to be split three ways between parish council, village hall and resident as previous year. The grass will need cutting soon.
- d) Defibrillators – nothing to report.
- e) Devolution – update in clerk’s report.
- f) Colchester Local Plan and meeting with planning officers – discussed under item 3a.
- g) 20s Plenty speed scheme – Cllr Harding has a contact who may be able to supply details of the community petition.
- h) Suspension of recycling during hot weather – discussed under item 3a.
- i) Potholes – the B1023 pothole opposite Stonefield Farm shop has been marked, hopefully for repair soon.
- j) Christmas Event 30 November – Cllr Harding reported that FOMC want to get a rooted Christmas tree this year and ask residents for financial contributions. He requested that the parish council donates £125 to the event as previous year and then a potential further £125 if there is a shortfall in funding for the tree, proposed by Cllr Suckling and seconded by Cllr Mrs Irons with all in agreement.

8 82/25 CLERK’S REPORT was RECEIVED and NOTED

Pre-payment cards were discussed but it was agreed for the clerk to firstly look into changing the wording of the Financial Regs to describe the petty cash process.

9 83/25 FINANCE

- a) Orchard finances update was **RECEIVED**.
- b) Finance report was **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**.
- c) Notification of payroll and expenses was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons.
- d) Bank reconciliation for the month of June 2025 was **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons.
- e) Accounts for payment were **APPROVED**, signed Cllr Mrs Baxter and Cllr Mrs Irons

10 84/25 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS - matters for forthcoming agenda: involvement with hatchments.

11 85/25 NEXT MEETING - confirmed Tuesday 19 August 2025 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL - JULY 2025

LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Salary & office allowance (July)	£939.49
LGA 1972 s111	HMRC	PAYE	£113.97
LGA 1972 s111	Pension Fund	Pension contributions (July)	£306.00
LGA 1972 s111	Staff 3	Expenses	£9.62
PHA 1875 s165	James Cornwell	Orchard and allotment cuts	£170.00
PHA 1875 s165	James Cornwell	Cut hedges in allotments	£120.00
PHA 1875 s165	James Cornwell	Remove pallets from orchard and allotments	£160.00